



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MEMOIRS AND LETTERS OF JAMES KENT. By his great-grandson, WILLIAM KENT of the New York Bar. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1898.

Talleyrand's scornful adage about letter writers, which Kent must have heard—for he let wonderfully little pass him of what was printed in French or English—should have held him closer to his lectures and commentaries. Crabbedly conservative and disliked, therefore, by the growing nation, he became embittered, and in his later correspondence scored others for a biased egotism that he himself betrayed. Although chilled by this trait, we find much to atone for it in the loving dread he showed for his country's happiness. He believed John Adams hopeful of setting up an hereditary monarchy, and he looked askant at J. Q. Adams' election.

The book is enlivened by such glimpses into his private views. The biographer, being a great-grandson, has been able happily to relieve the otherwise stern countenance with kindly and even humorous lines, and to soften the cold, judicial gaze with indications of a love for the Muses. Anecdotes of his meetings with the foremost statesmen and writers help prove that all saw in him the framer of our legal policy. As chancellor, during the nine years ending in 1823, he had not a single decision, opinion or dictum of his predecessors from 1777 onwards even suggested to him, which, he said, "gave me grand scope; and I took the court as if it had never been known in the United States."

In 1781 he left Yale College, its professor and its three tutors; its lessons he never forsook. More stress, indeed, is laid on his classical than on his legal lore. It would amuse modern business-like lawyers to find a judge's journal teeming with such entries as, "Pinkney's speech in the Nereide case ranks with Cicero's best." This notion of Kent's was quite odd in one who had listened to so many orators of note at his own bar. Again he states, "Mrs. Radcliffe's productions and the keen observations of my wife make me bow to the equal talents and genius of female minds." On the same page we read that "Twelfth Night" and several others of Shakespeare's plays are "very indifferent" or "barely tolerable!" "Hamilton, had he lived, would have rivalled Socrates!" This last we can forgive, in view of his friendship with that lofty spirit. His account of Hamilton forms a valuable appendix to the book, revealing the simple, old-fashioned patriotism which pervaded both men, and was, perhaps, their chief bond of union.

S.

THE AMERICAN LAW OF REAL PROPERTY, By CHRISTOPHER G. TIEDEMAN. Second Edition. St. Louis: The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co. 1892.

In the preface to the first edition of this book, the author states that one of his objects in writing it was to show a logical or historical reason for every principle of the law of Real Property.